



# MANSFIELD

## Bristol County



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## NARRATIVE

### **Narrative**

The Town of Mansfield is an industrial railroad town in Bristol County. In its earliest days, the town was the unsettled frontier of Taunton, used for hunting, fishing and some livestock grazing. The earliest permanent settlement took place in the 1680's. During the Colonial era, the town's economy was based on a mixture of agriculture and ironworking.

The first grist mill was established in 1695 and the first iron forge in 1735, to work bog iron found in the area. In the early 19th century a small industrial base was established with several tack factories, cotton mills, machine foundries and straw hat manufacturers. Local officials made a conscious effort to diversify the businesses in town. It appeared that Mansfield's commercial destiny was decided when the railroads arrived in Mansfield in the 1830's and the town was established as a refueling and freight transfer point.

However, later in the 19th century, the town suffered from the de-emphasis of rail freight, and the town fathers were actively engaged in attempting to draw new industry to town. The Mansfield Board of Trade was formed in 1892 and was instrumental in getting industry to set up in town. Among the companies they brought in were jewelry firms which had been settled in Attleboro. Immigrants from Italy, Ireland, England and Canada moved to Mansfield to fill the manufacturing and farming jobs in the town, which was site of experimental gladioli farms. The construction of Routes 24 and 495 and the development of a joint Mansfield/Foxborough industrial park brought new commercial life to the town.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



# GEOGRAPHY

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## Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by North Attleborough on the west, Attleboro on the southwest, Norton on the south, Easton on the east, Sharon on the northeast, and Foxborough on the north. Mansfield is 14 miles southwest of Brockton; 26 miles south of Boston; 19 miles northeast of Providence, Rhode Island; and 192 miles from New York City.

**Total Area:** 20.72 sq. miles

**Land Area:** 20.46 sq. miles

**Population:** 16,568

**Density:** 810 per sq. mile

## Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Taunton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....25.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.2°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.7"

## U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Mansfield, Norton, Wrentham, Attleboro

## Regional Planning Agency

Southeastern Regional Planning and  
Economic Development District

## Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



# GOVERNMENT

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## Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 261-7370

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

## Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Town Manager

Open Town Meeting

## Year Incorporated

As a town: 1775

## Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	9,821		
Democrats	2,396	24.4	%
Republicans	1,779	18.1	%
Other parties	6	0.1	%
Unenrolled Voters	5,640	57.4	%

## Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



# DEMOGRAPHICS

**Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000**

Geographic Area: Mansfield town, Bristol County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	22,414	100.0	<b>HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE</b>		
<b>SEX AND AGE</b>			Total population.....	22,414	100.0
Male.....	11,175	49.9	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	317	1.4
Female.....	11,239	50.1	Mexican.....	56	0.2
Under 5 years.....	2,154	9.6	Puerto Rican.....	107	0.5
5 to 9 years.....	2,268	10.1	Cuban.....	37	0.2
10 to 14 years.....	1,792	8.0	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	117	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	1,141	5.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	22,097	98.6
20 to 24 years.....	859	3.8	White alone.....	20,894	93.2
25 to 34 years.....	3,559	15.9	<b>RELATIONSHIP</b>		
35 to 44 years.....	4,979	22.2	Total population.....	22,414	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,912	13.0	In households.....	22,361	99.8
55 to 59 years.....	812	3.6	Householder.....	7,942	35.4
60 to 64 years.....	512	2.3	Spouse.....	4,937	22.0
65 to 74 years.....	741	3.3	Child.....	8,088	36.1
75 to 84 years.....	524	2.3	Own child under 18 years.....	6,743	30.1
85 years and over.....	161	0.7	Other relatives.....	693	3.1
Median age (years).....	33.8	(X)	Under 18 years.....	244	1.1
18 years and over.....	15,396	68.6	Nonrelatives.....	701	3.1
Male.....	7,488	33.4	Unmarried partner.....	377	1.7
Female.....	7,898	35.2	In group quarters.....	53	0.2
21 years and over.....	14,893	66.4	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	1,700	7.6	Noninstitutionalized population.....	53	0.2
65 years and over.....	1,426	6.4	<b>HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE</b>		
Male.....	589	2.6	Total households.....	7,942	100.0
Female.....	837	3.7	Family households (families).....	5,859	73.8
<b>RACE</b>			With own children under 18 years.....	3,547	44.7
One race.....	22,204	99.1	Married-couple family.....	4,937	62.2
White.....	21,137	94.3	With own children under 18 years.....	3,025	38.1
Black or African American.....	489	2.2	Female householder, no husband present.....	703	8.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	46	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	412	5.2
Asian.....	432	1.9	Nonfamily households.....	2,083	26.2
Asian Indian.....	225	1.0	Householder living alone.....	1,672	21.1
Chinese.....	117	0.5	Householder 65 years and over.....	465	5.9
Filipino.....	10	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	3,689	46.4
Japanese.....	8	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,108	14.0
Korean.....	22	0.1	Average household size.....	2.82	(X)
Vietnamese.....	13	0.1	Average family size.....	3.34	(X)
Other Asian <sup>1</sup> .....	37	0.2	<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	4	-	Total housing units.....	8,120	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	7,942	97.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	4	-	Vacant housing units.....	178	2.2
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander <sup>2</sup> .....	-	-	occasional use.....	37	0.5
Some other race.....	96	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.3	(X)
Two or more races.....	210	0.9	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.9	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			<b>HOUSING TENURE</b>		
<i>or more other races:<sup>3</sup></i>			Occupied housing units.....	7,942	100.0
White.....	21,308	95.1	Owner-occupied housing units.....	5,700	71.8
Black or African American.....	578	2.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	2,242	28.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	107	0.5	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	3.12	(X)
Asian.....	491	2.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.05	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	11	-			
Some other race.....	151	0.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup> Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

<sup>2</sup> Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

<sup>3</sup> In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



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# HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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**Home Sales** (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

**Subsidized Housing Units** (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

**Public Housing Units** (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State:	162
Conventional Federal:	0

**Rental Assistance**(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP:	18
Federal (Section 8):	63



# TRANSPORTATION

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## TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

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The Taunton-Attleboro region, where Mansfield is located, has excellent highway facilities. Interstate 495, especially well-designed south of Boston, provides access to Interstate 90 to the northwest and to U.S. Route 6, the Mid-Cape Highway, to the southeast. Interstate 95 and the Fall River Expressway (State Route 24) provide access to the airport, port, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

### Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 106 and 140. I-95 passes through the town and forms an interchange with I-495 at the border between Mansfield and Foxborough.

### Rail

Commuter rail service is available to Back Bay Station (travel time: 25-38 min.) and South Station, Boston. The MBTA parking facility at Mansfield Station has 775 spaces. Conrail offers freight service to Mansfield and operates a Flexi-Flo terminal and a Paper Connection distribution center in the town. Contact number: (617) 783-6222

### Bus

Mansfield is a member of the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Authority (GATRA), which provides Dial-A-Ride service to the elderly and disabled.

### Other

The Mansfield Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located 2 mi SE of the city, has a 3,496' x 75' asphalt runway and a 2,200' x 100' turf runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-Precision.



# CULTURE AND RECREATION

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## LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

## MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

## RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

**Recreational Facilities** (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



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# MISCELLANEOUS

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## HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

### Hospitals

None

### Long Term Care

None

### Hospices

None

### Rest Homes

None

### UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)



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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.